

New Music Concerts

Robert Aitken, c.m., Artistic Director

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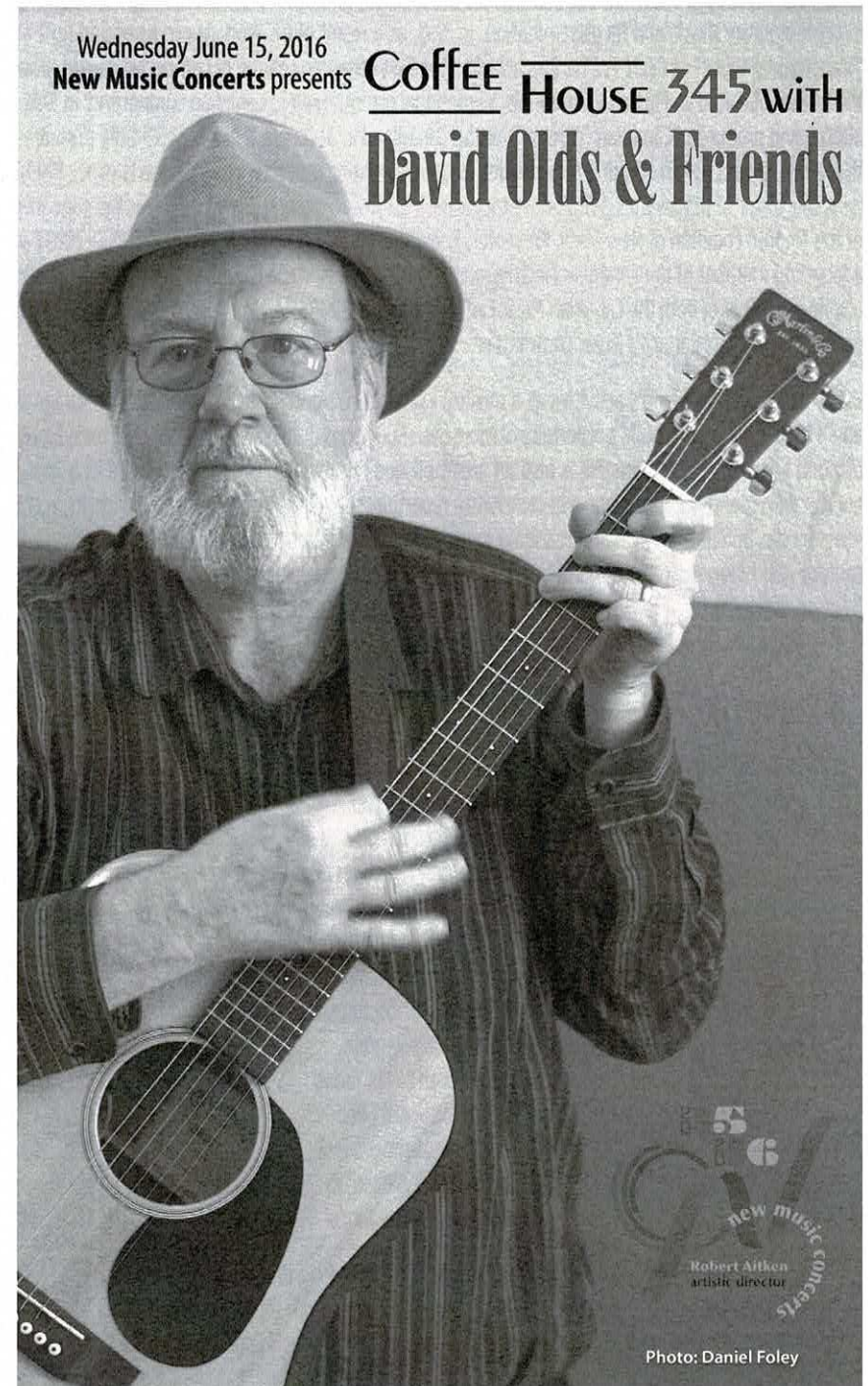
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Wednesday June 15, 2016
New Music Concerts presents **COFFEE HOUSE 345 with David Olds & Friends**



new music
concerts
Robert Aitken
artistic director

Photo: Daniel Foley

David Olds is known across Canada as a broadcaster, annotator and administrator specializing in contemporary music and its dissemination. In 1993, as a result of his work as producer and host of "Transfigured Night" at CKLN-FM, he was awarded the first Canadian League of Composers Award (now the Friends of Canadian Music Award) for his "exceptional commitment to Canadian Composers." In 1999-2000 David produced "Canadian Currents" for the Canadian Music Centre, a series of 52 radio programs that aired on CJRT-FM. In addition to his duties as general manager of New Music Concerts (since 1999), he is the editor of DIScoveries, WholeNote magazine's CD review section. David Olds was the convener of the Toronto Coalition of New Music Presenters (now the Toronto New Music Alliance) (2000-2007), is a founding member of the Canadian Electroacoustic Community and the Canadian New Music Network, a voting member of both the Canadian Music Centre and the Music Gallery and from 2007-2009 he served on the Toronto Arts Council's Music Committee.

Less well known are David's activities as a musician in his own right. Since receiving his first guitar at age 11 he has gone on to build a repertoire of more than 500 songs drawn from the folk, pop, rock, blues, r&b and alternative traditions. He is also an accomplished amateur cellist and has played in a string quartet with friends for more than a decade with a repertoire spanning Mozart to Shostakovich. In recent years he has added mandolin and mandola to his collection of instruments, developing an interest in country and bluegrass music. In addition to several original compositions, David will sing a selection from the following:

Bob Dylan – You're No Good; You Ain't Goin' Nowhere
Willie P. Bennett – Music in Your Eyes
Bruce Springsteen – Growin' Up
Bridget Kearney – When I Grow Up
Paul Simon – Duncan
David Wiffen – Coast to Coast Fever
Loudon Wainwright III – School Days; I Haven't Got the Blues (yet)
Allan Fraser and Daisy DeBolt – Pure Spring Water; Dance Hall Girls
Fred Neil – Dolphins
Elmo and Patsy – Grandma got run over by a Reindeer
Tim Buckley – Buzzin' Fly; Strange Feeling
Tom Rush – No Regrets
Sy Potma – When I Was Young
Paul Quarrington – Am I Ready?
James Taylor – Bartender's Blues
Leonard Cohen – Hallelujah
Van Morrison - Moondance

David will be joined by musical friends Bob McNiven (with Howard Willett), Sy Potma and David Perlman, who will perform songs from their own repertoires. Complimentary refreshments generously provided by the New Music Concerts Board of Directors.

About New Music Concerts

Having just completed its 45th season, New Music Concerts continues to be a vital and central part of Toronto's new music scene and has been providing a leadership role in the community throughout its history. Founded by internationally acclaimed Canadian musicians Robert Aitken and Norma Beecroft, NMC presented its first concert in January 1972 with guest composer/conductor Luciano Berio. Since that time many world renowned composers including such luminaries as John Adams, Harrison Birtwistle, Pierre Boulez, John Cage, Elliott Carter, George Crumb, Peter Maxwell Davies, Morton Feldman, Philip Glass, Heinz Holliger, Maurizio Kagel, Helmut Lachenmann, Steve Reich, Toru Takemitsu, Iannis Xenakis, Walter Zimmermann and early in their careers rising stars including Tan Dun, Toshio Hosokawa, Jörg Widmann and Raminta Serksnyte have come to Toronto at NMC's invitation. NMC's long history of diverse presentation activity with particular emphasis on Canadian creations and the active participation of challenging compositional voices from around the globe makes it unique. Thanks to the relationships that Artistic Director Robert Aitken has cultivated throughout his career, New Music Concerts is able to entice world renowned composers to Toronto who might otherwise not come here, thereby adding an international level of excellence to our city's arts scene. Our strong support of Canadian composers through commissions and performances and by combining them with international artists has kept us at the top of our field. As English Canada's senior contemporary music society, NMC's role has evolved over the years. Current programs reflect the ongoing concern to balance all aspects of our mandate to profile established and emerging Canadian and international composers. Encouraging creativity, innovative programming and interesting ways of presenting contemporary music are all vital parts of our policy and artists, programs and projects are selected and developed with this in mind. Since its inception NMC has presented nearly 400 concerts, commissioned more than 180 Canadian and international works and performed some 750 Canadian and world premieres. Far from resting on its laurels, New Music Concerts' energy has, if anything, increased in recent years as witnessed by this season's concerts of music by Philippe Leroux and Pierre Boulez, new works for an orchestra of 24 flutes and our upcoming residency at the Beijing International Composition Workshop next month.

Founding Artistic Director Robert Aitken

Having previously served as principal flute for the Vancouver and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Robert Aitken embarked on a solo career in 1970 that has taken him to virtually every corner of the globe. He has more than 70 recordings to his credit and such notables as John Cage, George Crumb, Elliott Carter, Mauricio Kagel, Toru Takemitsu, Gilles Tremblay, John Beckwith and R. Murray Schafer have dedicated works to him. In 2003 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Flute Association (USA) and invited to sit on the NFA's board of directors. In 2004 he retired after 16 years as Professor für Flöte at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany. Aitken has been honoured with the Order of Canada and is a Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France). When citing Aitken for the 2009 Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, the jury stated "A masterly force in the world of contemporary Canadian music, Robert Aitken has demonstrated over half a century a tireless commitment to its development, performance and promotion in every corner of the globe. As a flutist, composer, interpreter and teacher, he is a distinguished innovator and continues to exert a strong influence on upcoming generations."